

### REMARKS


In reviewing the file for this application, it was found that claims 1 and 18 omitted a word that should be present to properly define the invention. This inadvertent error was discovered during a review of the allowed claims after the Notice of Allowance was received. Accordingly, the present submission is made to expressly remedy this situation.

In this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to recited that the method includes selectively adjusting the thickness of the layer, while claim 18 has been amended to recite that the apparatus includes means for conducting selective sacrificial oxidation. Support for these changes appear in the published specification at paragraph [0184], so that there is no issue of new matter. Accordingly, the entry of these changes would be appreciated.

Finally, a prior art reference, U.S. patent 5,689,614, was brought to applicants attention as possibly being relevant to this application. Applicants and their attorneys have reviewed this patent and find that it is not material to the patentabilty of any of the allowed claims. Accordingly, applicants have no basis under the current disclosure rules to ask the Examiner to review this reference and make it of record in the file of this application. It is noted that the entry of this paper into the application file should be a sufficient indication that the reference was considered by the applicants and found to not be relevant.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 2/23/05

  
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